

Nova Scotia.—No. 116.

Downing Street,  
18th November, 1861.

MY LORD,—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch, No. 73, of the 20th of October, reporting that the Honble. Mr. Howe has been commissioned to proceed to England to co-operate with the gentlemen who have been deputed by the Governments of Canada and New Brunswick in submitting to Her Majesty's Government the question of affording Imperial aid towards the completion of a line of Inter-Colonial Railway between Halifax and Quebec.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

Lieutenant Governor  
The Right Honorable  
THE EARL OF MULGRAVE, &c. &c. &c.

Railway Office, Halifax,  
Sept. 20th, 1861.

SIR,—

In conformity with my instructions received in that behalf, I proceeded on the 12th instant to Fredericton, N. B., accompanied by Messrs. Nelson and Baat, lately from London, and had several interviews with the Executive Government of New Brunswick, which happened to be in session.

Having been invited to a seat at their Council Board, Francis Giles, Esquire, who had lately arrived from Great Britain, and desired an interview on the subject of the Inter-Colonial Railway between Canada and Halifax, was requested to submit any views he wished to communicate to the Board, which he did accordingly.

Messrs. Nelson and Baat were subsequently heard on the same topic.

None of these gentlemen were in any way officially accredited, nor affected to represent any organized Company or interest. They all urged the desirability of the road in question, and Mr. Nelson submitted a printed pamphlet (and a map annexed) containing a brief history of previous negotiations on the subject, prepared by himself, and an account of a highly respectable and influential delegation, or deputation rather, which had, not long previously, waited upon his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, in relation to the subject, and the Duke's reply.

After hearing these gentlemen at length, we were unanimously of opinion that the only proper way to revive the question and promote the construction of an Inter-Colonial Railway, was to secure some joint action on the part of the three Provinces of Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, preparatory to any application to the British Government for aid in an enterprise which, by common consent, could only be consummated by material assistance from the Imperial parliament.

In this view of the case, and considering it a very opportune occasion to revive the consideration of the construction of this great public work, it was decided to invite the Government of Canada to meet and confer at an early day in reference to the subject.

Entertaining no doubt but that the Government of Nova Scotia would unite in such a conference, I made the enquiry by telegraph, which, being answered affirmatively, I felt that I had accomplished all that, under existing circumstances, could be expected from the mission with which I was charged, a report of which I thus have the honor to submit for the information of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of this Province.

I remain, sir, &c.

J. McCULLY.

To the Honorable JOSEPH HOWE,  
Provincial Secretary, &c. &c.